

About the Minority Fellowship Program

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minority fellowship program

Ethnic minorities make up more than 28 percent of the Nation's population.¹ These individuals suffer heavier burdens of morbidity and early mortality than their white brethren.² Yet less than 20 percent of America's behavioral health workforce consists of ethnic minorities.³ The goal of the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) is to increase the percentages of professionals who are qualified to provide leadership in research, practice, education, and policy promulgation in government and private organizations that are central to the development and implementation of culturally specific and patient-centered programs for underserved ethnic minority persons with mental health or substance abuse disorders. Through the MFP, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides this initiative to assist the doctoral and postdoctoral development of nurses, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and marriage and family therapists from underrepresented and underserved populations.



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Five goals are embedded in the MFP:

1. Improve service to underrepresented and underserved populations
2. Create a nucleus of behavioral health leaders
3. Collaborate with State and national organizations to increase the quality of care
4. Ensure that training is consistent with the latest scientific and clinical developments
5. Expand the evaluation of services to vulnerable populations

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. African-American, Alaskan Native, American Indian, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students are especially encouraged to apply. See the SAMHSA Web site (<http://www.samhsa.gov/>)

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. 2010. "Population Profile of the United States." <http://www.census.gov/population/www/pop-profile/natproj.html>.

² National Center for Health Statistics. 2011. "Table 22. Life Expectancy at Birth, at 65 Years of Age, and at 75 Years of Age, by Race and Sex, United States, Selected Years 1900–2007." In *Health, United States, 2010: With Special Feature on Death and Dying*. Hyattsville, Md. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/hus10.pdf#listtables>.

³ American Psychological Association. 2011. "Health Disparities & Mental/Behavioral Health Workforce." <http://www.apa.org/about/gr/issues/workforce/disparity.aspx>.



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

(http://www.aamft.org/about/MFP/Index_About_MFP.asp)

Overview

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) MFP was established in 2008 to augment the training that Fellows already receive in their academic programs through an infusion of knowledge in cultural competence and substance abuse.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant must be enrolled in an AAMFT doctoral program and demonstrate strong commitment to a career in ethnic minority mental health and substance abuse services.

Selection Criteria

- Evidence of experiences in and commitment to minority mental health or substance abuse services, research, advocacy, and policy
- Demonstration of commitment to minority mental health or substance abuse services, research, advocacy, and policy in the applicant's essays, practicum and internship training experiences, and thesis and dissertation topics developed

AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

(<http://www.emfp.org/>)

Overview

The MFP at the American Nurses Association (ANA) grew as a response to the lack of mental health and substance abuse nurse professionals who could provide culturally competent care to an increasingly diverse population with ever-expanding needs for mental health and substance abuse disorders services, research, advocacy, and policy development.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant must be a registered professional nurse, a member of ANA, and fully enrolled in an accredited traditional or accelerated doctoral program.

Selection Criteria

- Evidence of experiences in and commitment to minority mental health or substance abuse services, research, advocacy, and policy
- Depth and quality of the proposed training program
- Certification or 'certification eligible' in mental health or substance abuse
- Documented potential for successfully completing doctoral studies
- Qualifications of the academic advisers and doctoral committee members
- A signed career statement indicating the individual will be employed/volunteer in one of two specialty areas

AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

(<http://www.psych.org/Resources/OMNA/MFP.aspx>)

Overview

The objective of the MFP at the American Psychiatric Association (ApA) is to increase the number and enhance the knowledge and capabilities of racial and ethnic minority psychiatry residents to teach, administer, conduct services research, and provide culturally competent, evidence-based mental health and substance abuse services to minority individuals. Medical student-focused programs are open to all ethnic minorities interested in exploring careers in psychiatry.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant must be an ApA member and either a psychiatry resident in second year of training or, if interested in the Substance Abuse/Addiction Fellowship, in fifth year of training. Provide three letters of reference, a curriculum vitae, an essay outlining one's career goals, and a completed application form.

Selection Criteria

- The MFP Advisory Committee conducts a comprehensive review to select the best applicants.
- The process involves ranking each applicant, assessing his or her interests in serving minority and underserved populations, and evaluating a personal essay.

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

(<http://www.apa.org/pi/mfp/>)

Overview

The American Psychological Association (APA) MFP provides financial support, professional development activities, and professional guidance to predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees in psychology. More than 700 individuals have received Fellowships, and many of these have become leaders in the field.

Predoctoral Fellowship Eligibility Requirements

Must be enrolled full time in APA-accredited doctoral program associated with mental health services delivery and must not be engaged in full-time, paid internship.

Predoctoral Fellowship Selection Criteria

- Commitment to ethnic minority mental health or substance abuse services/policy
- Knowledge of ethnic minority psychology or mental health services issues
- Fit between career goals and training environment selected
- Potential demonstrated through accomplishments and goals
- Scholarship/grades

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

(<http://www.cswe.org/mfp>)

Overview

Since 1974, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) MFP has concentrated on increasing the number of minority social workers in the field of mental health and substance abuse leadership. CSWE has successfully administered the Fellowship program, adding more than 400 Ph.D. social workers to the professional workforce. Program Alumni can be found in research, teaching, administration, policy, and advanced clinical practice.

Eligibility Requirements

Must be a master in social work graduate from a CSWE-accredited social work program and enrolled full time in a doctoral social work program.

Selection Criteria

- Documented potential for success in doctoral studies
- Demonstrated potential for assuming a leadership role in mental health and substance abuse field
- Commitment to a career in providing mental health and substance abuse services to underserved minority individuals and communities

Postdoctoral Fellowship Eligibility Requirements

Must have doctoral degree in psychology within the past 5 years and support from an established sponsor who will serve as the postdoctoral mentor.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Selection Criteria

- Commitment to ethnic minority mental health or substance abuse services/policy
- Fit between career goals and the training environment selected
- Merit of the training proposal
- Potential demonstrated through accomplishments and goals
- Qualifications of the sponsor

TESTIMONIALS

MFP is a "wonderful vessel that helps many doctoral students to fulfill dreams of scholarship excellence and reach a safe and successful harbor in higher education career opportunities."

"I wouldn't be where I am if not for the MFP. The MFP provides the foundation Fellows need. The SAMHSA MFP opens up doors and opportunities to help the minority community."